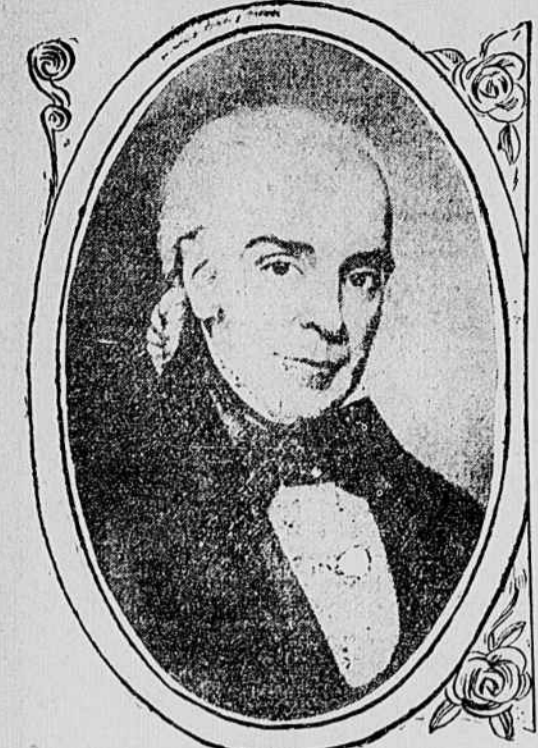


Thomas Rutherford, Proprietor of Rutherford's Addition and First Builder in West End of Richmond

By ALICE M. TYLER



THOMAS RUTHERFORD, SR., Founder of the Rutherford family in Virginia. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, during the year 1760.

If an early citizen of Richmond could drive or walk about the city which William Byrd founded in the first half of the eighteenth century, nothing would seem more astonishing than that the growth of the town has been mainly westward, over steep and rough ascents, the course of corporate wealth and power following here, as elsewhere in American cities, on or near the Atlantic coast, a common direction. Citizens of that earlier day very reasonably believed that the principal line of improvement in Richmond would continue on the lower levels nearest the river and extend up the valley northward. So firmly was this idea established that Seventeenth Street began by being Main Street and many comparatively pretentious brick buildings were erected on it, with arched gateways at the side and entrances into square courts, after the manner of old Scotch and English dwellings. These houses were private residences and the land on which they were built brought good prices.

The favorite promenade of the city at this period ran from Nineteenth Street some distance along terraced banks of the river under the shade of overhanging trees. On the summit of the hills eastward, aristocratic and wealthy families built their homes, in order to enjoy the lovely view and the delightful river breezes.

Franklin Street a Carriage Way.
At this time the Franklin Street of today did not exist. Beyond Second Street a carriage way wound through grassy fields past mansions, some of which were pretentious, others plain, faint outlines indicated future streets and thoroughfares. The part of the city, lying beyond Second Street between Cary and Broad, and stretching indefinitely toward the west, composed a territory originally known as "Rutherford's Addition," it being the property of Thomas Rutherford, an enterprising merchant, born in Glasgow during the year 1760, who first came to Richmond as a supercargo, in the interests of a Dublin firm of tobaccoists, and returned to Dublin when his business had been settled up.

A friendship between Mr. Rutherford and William Radford, of Gloucester county, led to an attachment on the part of the former for beautiful Sally Winston, a daughter of Gades Winston, of Laurel Grove, not far from Richmond. This young lady was a sister-in-law of Parson John Blair and later of Mr. Radford. Mr. Rutherford's diary records in a manner interesting to readers of the present day, his first meeting with Miss Sally Winston, concerning whom he writes:

"She was of delicate and extremely interesting appearance and much admired for the sweetness of her manners."

ARVONIA

Arvonian, Va., June 29.—The Arvonian Dramatic Club gave a delightful rendition of the short play, "The Face at the Window," in the Masonic Hall, Opera House on Friday night of this week. Among the prominent characters were Misses Lettie Morgan and Minnie Pierce, and Mrs. Charles Roberts and John W. Pierce. David Morgan, Richard M. Pierce, Mrs. Oregon F. Morgan was the director.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Roberts motored to Farmville on Saturday and spent the week-end with Mrs. Roberts' sisters, Misses Mary and Lettie Jackson. They were accompanied on the trip by Miss Rosa Wil-

kins and David W. Pierce. Miss Lettie Jackson returned with them on Monday, and will spend some weeks as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts.

Mr. and Mrs. John Frischkorn with their little daughter, Monica, of Richmond, arrived here on Saturday to spend a week or ten days as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Chandler Root at their home in Louisa county. Mrs. Frischkorn is a famous health resort, and thither the Rutherford family traveled in their coach during the summer of 1793. Here a goodly number of Richmonders seeking change, like the Rutherfords, were to be found, among them the Harvies, the Prices, the Buchanans, the Blairs, John and Alexander.

Mr. Rutherford's idea of the West-end as a Building Site.

To Mr. Rutherford's mind, during

discussions with these worthy friends, occurred the idea of purchasing a building site in the western part of Richmond, which he considered to be a higher and therefore a more desirable location for a permanent residence. Finally he carried out his purpose and persuaded Mr. Alexander Buchanan to sell him something over one hundred acres of land toward the upper end of Broad Street, the land on which Bellville, Columbia and other famous houses were afterward erected.

Mr. Rutherford began the erection of his own house during the winter of 1794, placing it at the northeast corner of Franklin and Adams Streets. He built leisurely and substantially, burning oyster shells to procure lime, and not removing his family into the new dwelling until the spring of 1796.

Although Mr. Rutherford was a pioneer in his choice of a building site, and although fashionable Franklin Street was then a road overgrown with grass and weeds, and Foushee Street a part of Mr. Rutherford's private grounds, his example so justified his judgment that it was speedily followed by the Parsons, the Blairs, the Wilsons, Prices, Cunninghams and others.

Architecture of Rutherford House.

The Rutherford house, as originally built, with an ample front of more than fifty feet, a high peaked roof and tall chimney stacks, was evidently planned by its owner with a view to the comfort of his large family, and his wife being the parents of thirteen sons and daughters. The grounds around the house were bounded by Adams Street on the west, First on the east, Grace on the north and Franklin on the south, and were divided into lawn, gardens, orchards and vineyards, a brick wall, nearly two feet in thickness, built in panels that were separated by thicker pilasters, enclosing the whole.

Such massive brick enclosures afterwards became common about the town and were occasionally rendered more effective by having their broad tops defended with broken glass. Remains of these walls are still standing here and there in Richmond, as may be seen in that which protects the gardens of the Valentine Museum; the Blairs at the corner of Fifth and Franklin, and the Archers, a square lower down.

The wall built by Mr. Rutherford around the square to the east of his house, was pierced with lozenge-shaped apertures to let in the air. This was because the wall held within it a warehouse for the storing of tobacco which Mr. Rutherford and his partner, Mr. Hawley, of Dublin, had bought and kept at Rocketts, to be sold for a profit at a proper time. During the War of 1812, Mr. Rutherford, remembering Arnold's plundering invasion of Virginia in 1781, determined to remove his tobacco to a place near his new residence, then comparatively secluded, for safe keeping. Fortunately, the British did not come to Richmond, the tobacco was safe and went high when peace came again.

On the site of the old tobacco warehouse, the former Kent home, now the property of Granville G. Valentine, and the block of buildings above on Franklin Street came into being. There remains no trace to-day of warehouse, green gables, arched and striped awnings, or of the old tobacco stacks which applied to keep them in countenance. A pond of water, then frequented by kildes and snipe, has been drained out of existence by the architects who laid the foundation of Grace Street Baptist Church, substituting stone curbing and formal sidewalks for the free ways of the fields.

Not long after Mr. Rutherford's new home was built, Linden Row square was offered by Mr. Radford to the governor of the State as a suitable location for a new State Penitentiary. Governor Wood had accepted Mr. Radford's proposition when Mr. Rutherford heard of it and, by prompt and energetic measures, prevented a misfortune that might have changed the history of Franklin Street. To accomplish what he desired, Mr. Rutherford bought Linden Row square from Mr. Radford and offered Governor Wood the present site of the penitentiary, comprising twelve, instead of the two acres on Franklin Street. Mr. Rutherford thus became a public benefactor as well as a pioneer of the West End. When Foushee Street was opened from Grace to Franklin and Main, it cut through the Rutherford gardens, in which a well dug by the owner supplied the neighborhood with delicious water, there being no public water works at the time.

The summer of 1809 was spent by Mr. Rutherford, his wife and his daughter, Jane, at the White Sulphur Springs. When Washington was captured by the British during the War of 1812-14, the family removed from Richmond to Woodlands, Randolph, to be cut of the way of possible marauding parties who did not materialize.

The Rutherford Family.

Of the thirteen children born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rutherford, the daughters spent their girlhood and ere home, the son, the spacious homestead at the corner of Franklin and Adams Streets. Jane Rutherford became the wife of S. H. Meade, of Hermitage, Amelia county. Sally, named for her mother, died young, but before her hand had been bestowed upon William Wood, of Chatsworth. Mary Rutherford's suc-

cessful suitor was Richard E. Hardaway, of Amelia county, and Patsy Rutherford's, Thomas G. Tinsley, of Richmond.

John, the eldest Rutherford son, was Governor of Virginia in 1841. He married Emily Cole, of Ennisworthy, Albemarle county. From their daughter, Emily Coles Rutherford, wife of Patrick Henry Aylett, and their son, John Coles Rutherford, many of the most distinguished people of Richmond are descended.

After the death of Thomas Rutherford, his home passed for a brief period into the hands of John Y. Mason, Secretary of the Navy under President John Tyler, Attorney-General of the United States in 1845, and Minister to France in 1853. During his occupation of 29 West Franklin Street, the interior construction of the building was changed and rooms were added. The roof was also changed. Miss Mason's daughters, after Mr. Rutherford's death, helped Mr. Mason to dispense graceful hospitality and render the house a centre of social interest during his ownership of it.

Samuel Rutherford, second son of Thomas, the elder, who had married Miss Frances Watson, and built on West Grace Street, where Mrs. W. L. Fleming now resides, was most anxious to buy back his father's home, when Hon. John Y. Mason had to leave Richmond for Paris, France. He and his family lived there for years. Of those perpetuating his name in Richmond to-day, are Miss Jane M. Rutherford and Mrs. Lewis Wheat, of 322 West Grace Street, and Thomas M. Rutherford, of 112 East Grace Street.

Like many other historic homes, that associated with the thrift and fine citizenship of Thomas Rutherford, passed out of the hands of his children and grandchildren. Strangers gathered in rooms once dedicated to family pleasures and sacred associations. William Taylor and the members of his household were its indwelling for awhile. Then it was purchased by Colonel A. S. Buford and remodeled to an appreciable extent, before it was finally pulled down and the place of modern dwellings put up where once the mansion and its grounds had been.

Passing of Ancient Landmarks.
The disappearance of the Rutherford home on Franklin and Adams Streets is but another bit of transformation of the old city. The old mansion of its ancient landmarks, and transforming it into an ugly, commonplace town, without beauty or individuality.

The saddest of changes are those connected with the ruthless destruction of ornamental trees, shrubbery driving away dull care in the drowsy days, the Bridge is proving more and more attractive to the vacationist each summer. These are lovely days in this favored land, as perfect as ever the poet sang. The skies are so serene and the air so fresh and sweet that it is a joy to be out in the open. The lovely glen where a rushing mountain stream speeds over rocky ledges, its foaming surface playing with the overhanging branches or swings in its haste around a moss-grown rock, then calms itself in a quiet pool which mirrors the chaste stems and tapering fingers of the maidenhair.

On Saturday a large and merry fishing party spent the day in a most unobtrusive spot on James River, where drooping branches offer a cool retreat and where that historic stream tempts the fisherman's hook with its gleaming beauties. After a delightful picnic dinner in the woods the party returned proudly bearing a fine string of fish as the day's trophy.

The annual meeting of the Virginia Pharmaceutical Association will be held here July 9 to 12. Quite an elaborate program has been arranged, contributing to the pleasure of the time and the occasion is looked forward to with much eagerness.

Mrs. Paul Edmunds, of Lynchburg, accompanied by Misses Lucinda and Margaret Lucado and a number of friends, motored to the bridge at Lexington, and later went on to Lynchburg.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Barry and Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Patterson, of Baltimore, Md., are now visiting the Bridge while on a motor trip through Virginia.

Miss Lottie Mable, of Decatur, Ga., will arrive here today to spend several weeks as the guest of her sister, Mrs. Charles Fortaine LeSueur.

W. T. Cruik, of Richmond, was a visitor here last week.

Miss Corinna Saunders, who has been visiting her friend, Mrs. John W. Pierce, has returned to her home in Belmont.

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